

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information communication method applied to
a communication system in which a plurality of client
apparatuses individually having computer aided design
5 (CAD) software are connected via a network to a server
apparatus managing information, the method comprising:

transmitting notation information related to a
notation created on a CAD file screen of an arbitrary
client apparatus, to the server apparatus;

10 recording the notation information transmitted to
the server apparatus, on a recording medium and
transmitting the notation information to one or more
client apparatuses as destinations of the notation
information;

15 displaying the notation information transmitted to
each client apparatus as the destinations, on a CAD
file screen of each client apparatus as the
destinations.

20 2. The information communication method according
to claim 1, wherein the notation information includes
contents of the notation, coordinates of a position of
the notation, and coordinates of a position indicated
by the notation.

25 3. The information communication method according
to claim 1, further comprising adding information
indicating the destinations of the notation infor-
mation, to the notation information to be transmitted

to the server apparatus.

4. The information communication method according to claim 1, wherein upon opening an CAD file, each client apparatus inquires of the server apparatus as to whether corresponding notation information has newly arrived, to obtain the notation, and then displays the notation on the CAD file screen.

5 5. The information communication method according to claim 1, further comprising displaying information indicating that corresponding notation information has newly arrived, on a screen of each client apparatus.

10 6. The information communication method according to claim 1, wherein after being powered on to activate a system, each client apparatus inquires of the server apparatus as to whether or not corresponding notation information has newly arrived, and if the corresponding notation information has newly arrived, displays the arrival on a screen.

15 7. The information communication method according to claim 1, further comprising notifying each client apparatus as the destinations of new arrival of the notation information via an electronic mail.

20 8. The information communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:

25 recording information on a notation created through a Web page, in the server apparatus and transmitting the notation information to each client

apparatus as the destinations; and

enabling the notation information recorded in the server apparatus to be referred by accessing the server apparatus through the Web page.

5 9. The information communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting an image containing a notation created on the CAD file screen of an arbitrary client apparatus, to the server apparatus together with 10 information on the notation to manage the image and the notation information by the server apparatus; and

enabling the image and notation information recorded in the server apparatus to be referenced by accessing the server apparatus through the Web page.

15 10. The information communication method according to claim 1, further comprising using a layer function provided in the CAD software to switch between display and non-display of the notation to indicate whether or not a task indicated by the notation has been 20 completed.

11. The information communication method according to claim 10, further comprising transmitting information indicating the non-display of the notation, to each client apparatus when the task is completed.

25 12. The information communication method according to claim 10, further comprising storing information indicating the display or non-display of the notation,

in the server apparatus.

13. The information communication method according to claim 1, further comprising:

5 storing the information indicating the display or non-display of the notation, in the server apparatus in association with the notation information; and
enabling the information stored in the server apparatus to be browsed or referenced.

14. A communication system comprising:

10 a plurality of client apparatuses individually having computer aided design (CAD) software;
a server apparatus managing information; and
a network connecting the plurality of client apparatuses and the server, wherein
15 each of the plurality of client apparatuses is configured to transmit notation information related to a notation created on a CAD file screen to the server apparatus and configured to display, on the CAD file screen, the notation information transmitted from the server apparatus, and

20 the server apparatus is configured to record the notation information transmitted by an arbitrary client apparatus, on a recording medium and configured to transmit the notation information to one or more client apparatuses as destinations of the notation information.

25 15. The communication system according to

claim 14, wherein the notation information includes contents of the notation, coordinates of a position of the notation, and coordinates of a position indicated by the notation.

5 16. A client apparatus having computer aided design (CAD) software and which can transmit and receive information to and from another client via a server apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

10 a first processing section configured to transmit notation information related to a notation created on a CAD file screen to one or more client apparatuses as destinations of the notation information via the server apparatus; and

15 a second processing section configured to display, on the CAD file screen, the notation information transmitted from an arbitrary client apparatus via the server apparatus.

20 17. The client apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the notation information includes contents of the notation, coordinates of a position of the notation, and coordinates of a position indicated by the notation.